**Scientific Advisory Group (SAG) of Africa RISING**

*Rationale:*

To ensure continuous, high-quality science in Africa RISING and compliance with its evolving research framework, the Africa RISING Program Coordination Team (PCT) and the regional Project Steering Committees suggested the creation of an independent standing science advisory body. Such a group would increase trust of current and future donors in the research carried out by the different regional research teams and eventually attract further funding.  
  
The group advises the PCT, has a major role in priority setting, helps establish strategic partnerships and external linkages to ensure that the technical program is well aligned and that the needed set of partners participates to achieve the goals and objectives of the program.

*Roles and responsibilities:*

The roles of the SAG members are:

* Provide advice on scientific direction, science quality and feasibility of proposed approaches for successful implementation of Africa RISING
* Provide advice on strategic partnerships needed to implement Africa RISING
* Make recommendations on opportunities for better performance of the program
* Provide advice on strategic elements such as gender mainstreaming, innovation, capacity development, essential for the success of Africa RISING
* Review the global program performance and the relevance of its outcomes
* Conduct internal reviews of the three regional projects (plus the M&E activities) in preparation of donor-commissioned external program reviews
* Advocate and lobby for Africa RISING with other donor agencies to attract further funding
* Advise the Africa RISING Communities of Practice within own area of specialization

*Composition:*

The Group comprises individuals that encompass R4D expertise and insights from diverse institutions, balanced across gender and geography. The membership should include experts in one or several of the following areas:

* Farming systems research
* Gender research mainstreaming
* Participatory research approaches
* Multi-stakeholder research
* R4D platforms set- up and management
* Agricultural economics
* Rural agricultural development
* Monitoring and evaluation
* Private sector engagement in rural development

The SAG is small (max. 6 persons). Members are volunteers receiving a small honorarium ($2,000/year) and reimbursed actual cost when travelling (economy class airfare).

The SAG interfaces as needed with the Project Coordinators (3) and Project Chief Scientists (3).

The Africa RISING PCT selects the initial Science Advisory Group members and appoints a Chair and Secretary for the first year. Thereafter, the Group will nominate its chair and members, to be ratified by the PCT. The PCT is responsible for periodically reviewing the composition of the committee and is empowered to add further members as required. Committee membership will be for 2-3 years to allow staggered turnover of members.

The group will meet twice a year, with maximum one virtual meeting. Members should allocate 8 days a year for their work on the group. In the case of the Chair, the level of effort should be 10 days. The Chair will annually report to the PCT and liaise with the PCT members as needs arise.